

**Criminal Justice Information Systems Advisory Committee  
June 3, 2004**

The Criminal Justice Information Systems Advisory Committee of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Thursday, June 3, 2004 , at 9:30 a.m., in conference room 6Z of the Nebraska State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was published May 17, 2004, in the Lincoln Journal Star.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chair Michael Overton. The following members were present: Ron Bowmaster, NIDCAC; John Cariotto, State Court Administrator; Gregg Magee, NE Sheriffs Association; Glenn Ogg, HHS, Protection and Safety; Michael Overton, NE Crime Commission; Ed Ragatz, Lincoln Police Department; and Dave Wegner, NE Probation Department;. The following members were **absent**: Lash Chaffin, League of NE Municipalities; Scot Ford, PCAN; Joe Franco, Omaha Police Department; Mike Gomez, NE Parole Board; Bill Howland, NE Attorney Generals Office; Dennis Keefe, Lancaster County Public Defender; Terry Lane, DOT Comm; Elaine Menzel, NE Association of County Officials; Sarah O'Shea, NE Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition; Byron Patterson, Police Officers' Association of NE; Lee Polikov, Sarpy County Attorney; Steven Schafer, NE CIO; John Shelton, NE State Patrol; Michael Thurber, Lancaster County Correctional Department; Mary Tyner, NE Coalition for Victims of Crime; Marlene Vetick, Clerk of District Courts; George Wells, NE Department of Corrections; and Steve Worster, Commission on Public Advocacy.

Also present were: Bob Grant, Department of Roads; Rick Acklin, Scott McFall, and Rod Warner, NE State Patrol; Ron Riethmuller and Don Phares, NE Department of Correctional Services; Diane Podany, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and Allen Curtis, Matthew Dicke, and Barbara McCreight, NE Crime Commission.

**Approval of Minutes**

***Motion***

***A motion was made by Magee and seconded by Ragatz to approve the minutes of the Criminal Justice Information Systems Advisory Committee meeting of November 6, 2003. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.***

## **CJIS Technology Conference Update**

Overton reported that approximately 200 people attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CJIS Technology Conference held February 25-26th in North Platte. The pre-conference sessions on NCJIS and security were well received. The conference was free to attendees. The conference drew a good set of federal, state and local vendors. Overton thanked POAN for handling the paperwork regarding all costs and fees associated with the conference. It is anticipated that the conference will be held next year in February in North Platte.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### **JUSTICE -**

John Cariotto reviewed updates and enhancements to JUSTICE. Judges' enhancements have been completed. New functionality has been built into the system to capture the information and activity in the courtroom rather than transferring it to paper after the hearing. The program updates to JUSTICE automatically which allows the other systems to be updated and to produce the needed documents.

A project to enhance document numbers is being tested. The current document numbers will run out next year without this expansion. Changes are being tested and it should be live the end of June.

Part of the e-filing effort has been implemented. Lancaster County District Court is scanning the documents filed in the court and indexing them through JUSTICE. The document number is being entered which creates the ability for the internal court personnel to select a specific document on screen. This functionality will be expanded to the prosecutors, public defenders, and probation.

Cariotto has completed the e-citation rule for the paper documents. It will be sent to the members who have worked on this issue for their review.

The CIO, Overton and Bowmaster have been working on the juvenile functionality in JUSTICE. The juvenile code has not been changed as was expected. Therefore, separate groups have started work on changing the functionality of JUSTICE with respect to delinquency and abuse and neglect. An RFP was issued and proposals have been received for building a strategic plan for better data exchanges for delinquency and abuse and neglect cases.

Bowmaster further explained a piece of the electronic filing system which uses an electronic file manager to process the updates that come in from Lancaster County. IMS is also involved in a similar project on the national scale called Open Source EFM. This project will build an electronic file manager using all open source code so that any entity using the software can run it. A pilot test of the EFM will begin in July. He noted the EFM is a piece of middleware that will facilitate the exchange of information between different systems, regardless of how that information is stored.

The second part of the open source EFM being piloted is an implementation of the global justice data exchange model. Global is a international standard setting body for basic in law enforcement. They have a data dictionary that defines every element used in the criminal justice community ( about 3000 data elements). The electronic filing system being tested will implement these elements and data exchanges.

Cariotto noted the electronic file manager and electronic dictionary developed by IMS will be available to other agencies, not just for JUSTICE. To be eligible to use the files, the agency must be ODBC compliant. No fees are assessed for the program.

## **VINE -**

Michael Overton reported the state went live with VINE in May of 1999. VINE is planning a promotion the end of the year to celebrate Nebraska's 5<sup>th</sup> year. It is hoped that it will include participation by the Governor

There have been about 125,000 calls into VINE; 70,000 requests for information; 55,000 notifications, and 6,935 registrations. Last month the system received about 196 calls. Notifications were expanded last year to include email messages which run about 30-40 a month. There have also been about 30 calls per month regarding parole hearings.

VINE will be conducting regional training sessions across the state for victim service providers, county attorneys, etc.

The cost for VINE increases 6% at the end of 5 years. The Commission has previously covered the annual \$264,000 cost for VINE with VOCA grant funds. Since the Commission does not receive a state appropriation for VINE, there is some concern as federal grant funds continue to shrink.

## **NCJIS -**

Overton reported on new features of NCJIS. All warrants coming out of JUSTICE are now pushed to NCJIS; an MOU with the Douglas County District Court has been developed and is being considered by the Douglas County Court; juvenile intake data is being posted from probation - this is a real time exchange of data; the subscription and notification system is working well and offers an email update; the Nebraska Sheriffs Association and PCAN have developed a secure discussion board; and enhancements to the impaired driving records and jail bookings are available.

NCJIS is undertaking some new projects. Work continues with the Department of Roads on a accident reporting system that will allow accident reports to be entered online.

Work continues with the courts on the development of a search index for JUSTICE. This includes criminal, traffic, juvenile, probate and civil case data on JUSTICE. There are 50,000 retrievable records entered each month. Last month there were 55,000 hits on Nebraska On-Line of which about 6,000 were free to state agencies. Once the MOU is signed, these records will be available through NCJIS with the exception of adoption records.

Cariotto noted employers continue to seek record checks on prospective employees and have broadened their search area. He noted the definition of a "misdemeanor" in state statute may vary from a definition within a city ordinance.

## **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Photos**

A contract has been completed with Digimarc and AI to provide access to digital photos on NCJIS. It is hoped it will be ready this summer. MOU's are being developed to allow access. Statutory restrictions may dictate the types of access and may limit some to only law enforcement.

## **Kansas/KCJIS Data Sharing**

Overton reported that another meeting was held with Kansas officials regarding the sharing of data between KCJIS and NCJIS. Kansas chose to not proceed with a net based data model. All users in Kansas are NLETS users which is not true in Nebraska.

Overton will be contacting BJA (Bureau of Justice Assistance) to request an

extension and a change in focus for the grant award. It is hoped the funds can be directed to some of the interfaces and/or to upgrading some of the NCJIS hardware.

### **Substance Abuse Working Group Standardized Model**

Work continues on the data sharing project for the Standardized Model adopted by the Substance Abuse Task Force. The SSI and risk assessment scoring information on NCJIS is being tested by probation in Lancaster, Douglas and Sarpy Counties. It is hoped the program will expand to other probation departments.

### **DNA Tracking**

The State Patrol is looking at improving the level and quantity of DNA tests that are taken and the sharing of data. They are considering the process, training, and workflow issues.

### **NCJIS Training**

The Commission continues to provide training sessions for NCJIS users across the state. These sessions also include a half-day session on EasyStreet Draw. There are about 261 agencies currently using NCJIS.

### **LOCAL APPLICATIONS**

#### **SLEUTH -**

The state has assigned the maximum number of licenses it purchased for SLEUTH. One hundred agencies are using the program which includes some shared installations. Fremont was the last agency to become licensed. The Commission has 6 additional requests for SLEUTH and may use federal grant funds to purchase more licenses.

The Commission received a BJS grant through JRSA's Tribal Justice Statistics Assistance Center. The funds are to be used to automate 3 agencies with SLEUTH to enhance the reporting and collection of data. The sites chosen include the Thurston County Sheriff, the Omaha Nation Tribe and the Winnebago Tribe. The Commission is waiting for final approval of the plan by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Overton noted although there are complex issues to consider such as jurisdiction, data sharing, etc., the participating agencies are only looking at the issue of automation and data sharing. The Omaha Nation Tribe also desires court and jail automation, VINE and NCJIS.

The Commission is also waiting for a cost estimate from Text & Data for the modification of the civil papers component to SLEUTH. Agencies will have to pay for these additional modifications.

SLEUTH has replaced the SPIN software program used by the Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces. An interface will provide data to LEIN and NeLEIS.

### **JAMIN**

The juvenile detention centers at Madison and Gering have been automated with the JAMIN software program. A JRSA grant was used to complete this project. NCJIS is now getting electronic data and photos from the 2 sites. The 4 juvenile detention sites (Lincoln Attention Center, Douglas County Youth Center, NE Nebraska Juvenile Center, and Western NE Juvenile Center) are now providing electronic data to NCJIS.

### **Case Management Systems (CMS) for Prosecutors -**

There will be 18 prosecutors offices with CMS and additional licenses are available. Buffalo County is looking at the system. Douglas County was interested in the system for their county attorney and public defender but selected another system. There are a number of unused licenses.

### **EasyStreet Draw -**

There are currently 250 agencies using the EasyStreet Draw program. Training continues to be offered by the Commission.

### **TraCS/eCitations**

Rick Acklin, NE State Patrol, reported that by the end of June data will be able to be moved to the Patrol.

### **NCHIP**

Rod Warner, NE State Patrol, stated the Patrol submitted the next application for NCHIP grant funds. The focus of this application will be to support the PCH migration from the mainframe down to the server at the Patrol. McFall explained the goals of the PCH migration was to provide a more interactive environment and real time exchange of data.

It was noted that NCJIS and others had benefitted in the past from the sharing of

grant funds from the NCHIP grant. McFall stated it is anticipated this will be a one time use of the grant funds exclusively for the NSP.

## **AFIS**

Warner stated the Patrol is waiting for a response on its sole source application for an AFIS upgrade. It is hoped that installation will begin in the fall. Processing units will be replaced to increase accuracy and response time.

## **SOR (Sex Offender Registry)**

Scott McFall reported that an analyst has been brought on for the Sex Offender Registry. One goal is to be able to look at a buffer zone around an address to see what sex offenders are in that area and incorporate mapping.

## **Protection Order Registry (POR)**

Overton stated the POR is going out to NCIS and that the protection orders are posting out to NCJIS. NCJIS is now getting the Douglas County protection orders. Discussions have taken place with the Patrol about modifying the data feed from Douglas County or bouncing it over from NCJIS.

## **JEIM Tool (Justice Exchange Interface Model)**

Overton stated that SEARCH has a JEIM tool which could be obtained at no cost to provide more functionality in CJIS's data exchanges. It would allow the building of a standardized library of exchanges. The Commission contacted SEARCH about obtaining the tool and training. SEARCH no longer has money to provide free training. If the Commission wants to bring a trainer to Nebraska in July, expenses would need to be paid for 2 days (transportation, lodging and meals).

## **Juvenile Data Sharing**

An RFP was put together by NITC and CJIS to build a strategic plan for sharing juvenile data to include justice, education, and HHS data. The proposals are in and a contract will be awarded the end of June.

The Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse is recommending the improved sharing of data between law enforcement and child protective services, it specifically mentions CJIS. It provides \$1 million for this project, the money will go through HHS.



## **Community Corrections Council's Data Sharing Plan**

Allen Curtis reported with the passage of LB 46, Neb.Rev.Stat. §43-632, a Community Corrections Uniform Data Analysis Fund was created under the administration of the Commission. This fund is supported with a \$1 fee assessed to all court citations. The funds are to only be used to support operations relating to the implementation and coordination of the uniform analysis of crime data pursuant to the Community Corrections Act.

As of April, 2004, the balance of the fund was \$284,162 with approximately \$25,678 being collected each month. The budgeted appropriation for FY 03/04 and FY04/05 is \$300,000.

Curtis asked CJIS to consider creating a committee to help plan a prediction model and to advise on the use of the fund. It was suggested that membership include a staff member of the Community Corrections Council and members from all agencies required to submit data. It was suggested that Michael Overton serve as chair of the committee. The Committee would work to create and fund a modeling tool that will incorporate all the statutorily required data and whatever other data is needed for predicting effects/impacts on populations.

### ***Motion***

***A motion was made by Cariotto and seconded by Don Phares to create a Community Corrections Uniform Crime Data Analysis Committee to fulfill the statutory obligations of Neb.Rev.Stat. § 47-633 and to include a member from the: Community Corrections Council, Department of Correctional Services, Parole Board, Adult Parole Administration; State Probation, Nebraska State Patrol, Court Administrator's Office, Ron Bowmaster of IMS, and any other criminal justice agency needed to accomplish the mission. Motion carried unanimously by acclamation.***

Curtis will contact the various agency heads to request the designation a staff member to serve on the committee.

## **Probation**

Dave Wegner reported that Probation's IMS program went live in September, 2003. February 16, 2004, real time data was available on NCJIS. The next step will be to integrate with PCH and Project Impact of Omaha. They also continue to seek funds for future projects.

## **Further Comment on DNA Collection**

Cariotto stated the DNA correspondence he had received was confusing regarding the need to enhance collection at the local level. He asked what the court could do to help with this process and what specific information exchanges were needed.

McFall state the DNA section of NSP's Crime Lab is seeking a common denominator and is studying the workflow issues. It was suggested that at the point of sentencing the court should order the DNA collection. The following criteria were considered: whether DNA needs to be collected, who should collect the samples, what method of collection should be used, who pays for the collection, what system will keep track of whether the sample has been collected and received, etc. It appears the easiest and least costly method of collection would be through the use of cotton swaps. Blood draws and pricks would require medical personnel.

Laws state when collection is required but the orders are not showing on the court order. The goal is to start discussion of the issues of needed data, enforcement and workflow.

DNA samples are collected from all inmates entering the penitentiary system. The law states it will be collected by jails and booking facilities.

Wegner noted approximately 486 probation offenders need to be tested. The statutes are ambiguous, CJIS is a good forum for discussion.

Offenses requiring DNA collection include homicide, sexual assault and stalking. There has been an effort to expand the categories to include robbery and burglary. That was vetoed by the Governor but it is anticipated it will be brought up again at the next legislative session.

Riethmuller noted some offenses may or may not require DNA collection, i.e. false imprisonment.

## **Conference Update**

- NCJIS made presentations at the SEARCH conference in February, 2004.
- A presentation on NCJIS was also made to Nebraska's Homeland Security. Discussions with NEMA and Homeland Security are taking place on data sharing

and their critical infrastructure data base.

## **Election of Officers**

As per CJIS bylaws, the Committee selected a chair and vice-chair for 2004.

### ***Motion***

***A motion was made by Cariotto and seconded by Wegner to nominate Michael Overton as chair for 2004. Motion carried unanimously by acclamation.***

### ***Motion***

***A motion was made by Wegner and seconded by Cariotto to nominate Ron Riethmuller to serve as vice-chair for 2004. Motion carried unanimously by acclamation.***

## **Other Business**

Cariotto noted as CJIS considers juvenile data sharing and protection of juveniles in the system, there is a need for additional new members who have direct contact with youth and the courts. Discussion will include what needs to be done in the court system, what data can be shared, and how data will be used. Members were asked to contact Steve Schafer, Ron Bowmaster, Michael Overton or him with possible representatives.

## **Next Meeting Date**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next CJIS meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, August 5, 2004.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara McCreight  
Administrative Assistant